

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for acknowledging that claims 5-9, 11 and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 6 is cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 14, 17 and 20 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-5 and 7-23 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 10, 12-16 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the prior art disclosed in the instant application. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0021144 ("Oshima et al."). In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicant cancels claim 6 and amends independent claims 1, 10, 14 and 20 to include the allowable limitations of claim 6. Further, Applicant rewrites allowable claims 7-9, 11 and 17 in independent form and amends the claims to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims. Thus, the rejections are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that claims 1, 7-11, 14, 17 and 20 be allowed. Further, claims 2-4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 21-23 depend from one of amended claims 1, 10, 14 and 20 and should therefore be allowed for the reasons set forth above without regard to further patentable limitations contained therein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that claims 2-4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 21-23 also be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

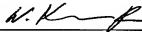
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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